

Applicants: Botha, et al.
Serial No.: 09/779,237

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 7, 10, 11, 13-14, 19, 29 and 30, and amend claims 1-4, 6, 9, 15-18 and 20-28 as shown herein. A copy of all the amended claims, with the current amendments shown in marked-up form, is attached as Exhibit C to this Reply. A copy of all of the claims, in "clean" form with the present amendments incorporated, is attached as Exhibit D to this Reply.

IN THE FIGURES

Applicants submit new drawings sheets 1-6 to replace the drawing sheets presently on file.

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been amended to insert sequence identifiers as per point 1 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 8-14 and 17-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph.

The inventive step of the invention as disclosed in the specification is that the ability to store sucrose in sugarcane can be intentionally altered by regulating the PFP enzyme activity of the plant.

In other words, depending on whether the PFP enzyme is down regulated or up regulated (compared to the wild type or untransformed plant), the sucrose content within the plant will be increased or decreased, respectively. While it seems most logical to achieve an increased sucrose content, there is no "optimal" sucrose content which has been identified, and so it is also envisaged that a situation may arise in which it is desirable to up regulate the PFP enzyme activity and so decrease the sucrose content.